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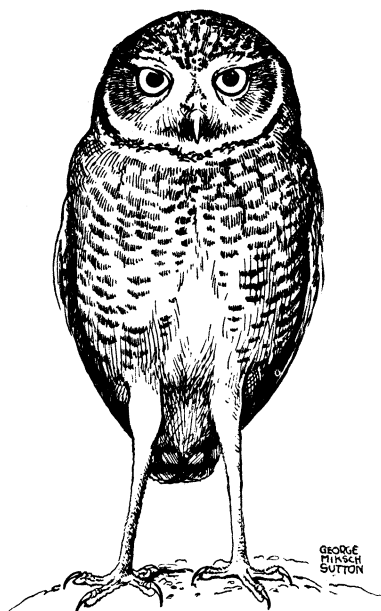
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VOLUME XX

JULY, 1952

NUMBER 3

# The Nebraska Bird Review



*A Magazine of Ornithology  
of the Nebraska Region*

*Published by the*

NEBRASKA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

Founded 1899

## The Nebraska Bird Review

A Magazine of the Ornithology of the Nebraska Region

Published quarterly in January, April, July, and October by the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, as its official journal.

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All manuscripts for publication should be sent to the Editor.

### NEBRASKA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

Founded December 16, 1899

President.....	Levi L. Mohler, 1000 S. 35 St., Lincoln, Nebr.
Vice President.....	L. O. Horsky, 2952 Franklin St., Omaha, Nebr.
Secretary.....	W. E. Eigsti, Hastings Museum, Hastings, Nebr.
Treasurer.....	Mrs. F. J. Patton, Blue Springs, Nebr.
Custodian.....	Miss Mary Louise Hanson, University of Nebraska State Museum, Lincoln, Nebr.
Editor.....	William F. Rapp, Jr., 2759 F St., Lincoln, Nebr.
Assistant Editor.....	Henry E. Baumgarten, Department of Chemistry, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebr.

The Executive Committee is composed of the above officers and Adrian C. Fox, Box 1451, Lincoln, Nebraska and R. Allyn Moser, R.F.D. No. 1, Benson Station, Omaha 4, Nebraska.

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# The Nebraska Bird Review

A Magazine of the Ornithology of the Nebraska Region  
Published by the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union

VOL XX

JULY 1952

NUMBER 3

## NESTING OBSERVATIONS ON CERTAIN SANDHILL LAKES

By Norman Chupp, Fremont, Nebraska\*

While employed by the Nebraska Game, Forestation and Parks Commission during the summer of 1951, I had an opportunity to gather some data relative to the nesting birds of certain sandhill lakes.

The data were gathered from lakes located within the boundaries of the Valentine National Wildlife Refuge. This refuge is approximately 25 miles south of Valentine, Cherry County, Nebraska. Observations were made on the following six lakes: Center, Rice, "21", Sweetwater, North Marsh, and South Marsh.

The dominant species of emergent aquatic plants found on these lakes are hardstem bulrush (*Scirpus acutus*), river bulrush (*Scirpus fluvialis*), common reed (*Phragmites communis*), cattail (*Typha latifolia*), giant bur-reed (*Sparganium eurycarpum*), arrowhead (*Sagittaria latifolia*), and several species of sedges and rushes. The reader is referred to Tolstead (1942) for a detailed description of the biological and physical characteristics of lakes in this general region.

\*At the present time the author is a member of the armed forces and stationed at Tokyo, Japan.

**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD** (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*)

During the period from June 11 to June 26, I observed 36 nests. Most of them were located within heavy stands of common reed and hardstem bulrush.

On the first date of observation, June 11, young were found in three of 19 nests examined. Seventeen nests containing eggs were found to have an average of 3.1 eggs. Six nests containing young had an average of 2.3 young. Several young had reached the flight stage by June 23.

**BLACK TERN** (*Chlidonias nigra surinamensis*)

Eggs of this species were most commonly found on wet, floating mats of vegetation. Apparently this bird usually makes little or no attempt at nest construction.

During the period between June 11 and July 9, I observed 24 nests. The average number of eggs per clutch was three.

**FORSTER'S TERN** (*Sterna forsteri*)

Twenty of the 43 nests observed were constructed on muskrat houses or muskrat feeding platforms. The remainder of the nest were constructed of hardstem bulrush stems and were located on the surface of the water.

The average number of eggs per nest was 2.8. The first young were seen on July 7, at North Marsh Lake.

**BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON (*Nycticorax nycticorax hoacti*)**

A large nesting colony of these birds was found on "21" Lake. All of the nests were located in a stand of hardstem bulrush and were constructed of stems of hardstem bulrush. The nests were floating on the surface of the water.

Eighteen nests containing young had an average of two per nest.

**COOT (*Fulica americana*)**

A total of 30 nests was observed from June 11 to June 23. There was considerable variation in the number of eggs per nest; however, in some nests eggs had begun to hatch and in others the clutch was not yet complete. Five nests which were believed to have complete clutches had an average of 8.6 eggs per clutch.

The nests were located in common reed, hardstem bulrush, or cat-tail with no apparent preference shown for any one of these species.

**EARED GREBE (*Colymbus nigricallis californicus*)**

Twelve grebe nests were observed from June 11 to July 7. Since in no case was an adult seen leaving the nest, it was impossible to know definitely whether these nests belonged to eared grebes or pied-billed grebes. The majority of the adults seen in the near vicinity of the nests were eared grebes, so it is assumed that the nests probably belonged to birds of that species.

Four of these nests were believed to have complete clutches. The average number of eggs per clutch was 6.

**LITERATURE CITED**

Tolstead, William L. 1942. Vegetation of the Northern part of Cherry County, Nebraska. Ecol. Monog. 12:255-292.

**SPRING FIELD DAY, 1952**

The first annual spring field day of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union was held on the first weekend of May (May 3-4). A total of 151 species was reported.

The following groups participated: ALEXANDRIA: Warren J. Chase, Claude Wieggers; ANTELOPE COUNTY: Mrs. George Kirk, Miss Ann Seabury, Mrs. George Seabury, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Seabury; CRETE: Henry E. Baumgarten, Janet L. C. Rapp, William F. Rapp, Jr.; GENEVA: Mrs. A. A. Ashby, Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Guy Case, Miss Fisher, Mrs. Robert B. Waring; HASTINGS: Mrs. A. H. Jones, Reporter; LIBERTY: Florence H. Harden; LINCOLN: Audubon Naturalists' Club; NORTH PLATTE: North Platte Bird Club; PERU: Leroy M. Gates; PLATTSMOUTH: Mrs. Lorene Heineman; SEWARD: Mrs. William T. Downing; SUPERIOR: Miss Marion Day, Mrs. H. C. Johnston, Mrs. Earl Lionberger.

EARED GREBE: Antelope Co., Lincoln.

PIED-BILLED GREBE: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Crete, Lincoln.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT: North Platte.

GREAT BLUE HERON: North Platte.

GREEN HERON: Alexandria, Lincoln, North Platte.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON: Alexandria, Lincoln.  
AMERICAN BITTERN: Alexandria, Hastings, North Platte.  
CANADA GOOSE: Alexandria.  
LESSER SNOW GOOSE: Lincoln.  
COMMON MALLARD: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Hastings, Lincoln,  
North Platte.  
AMERICAN PINTAIL: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Hastings, Lincoln.  
GREEN-WINGED TEAL: Crete, Lincoln.  
BLUE-WINGED TEAL: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Crete, Hastings,  
Lincoln, North Platte, Superior.  
CINNAMON TEAL: Alexandria.  
GADWALL: Lincoln, North Platte.  
BALDPATE: Alexandria, Hastings, Lincoln, North Platte.  
SHOVELLER: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Hastings, Lincoln, North Platte.  
REDHEAD: Antelope Co., North Platte.  
RING-NECKED DUCK: Lincoln.  
LESSER SCAUP DUCK: Alexandria, Hastings, Lincoln.  
RUDDY DUCK: Alexandria, North Platte.  
AMERICAN MERGANSER: Lincoln.  
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK: Lincoln.  
COOPER'S HAWK: Alexandria, Peru.  
SWAINSON'S HAWK: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Lincoln.  
MARSH HAWK: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Crete, Hastings, Lincoln,  
Plattsmouth.  
SPARROW HAWK: Antelope Co., Geneva, Lincoln.  
BOB-WHITE: Alexandria, Hastings, Liberty, Peru, Superior.  
RING-NECKED PHEASANT: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Crete, Geneva,  
Hastings, Lincoln, North Platte, Superior.  
KING RAIL: Lincoln.  
SORA: Crete, Lincoln.  
AMERICAN COOT: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Crete, Lincoln.  
SEMIPALMATED PLOVER: Antelope Co.  
KILLDEER: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Crete, Geneva, Hastings, Liberty,  
Lincoln, North Platte, Plattsmouth.  
WILSON'S SNIPER: Antelope Co., Lincoln.  
LONG-BILLED CURLEW: North Platte.  
UPLAND PLOVER: Antelope Co., North Platte.  
SPOTTED SANDPIPER: Hastings, Lincoln.  
SOLITARY SANDPIPER: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Crete, Lincoln,  
North Platte.  
WESTERN WILLET: Hastings, Lincoln.  
GREATER YELLOWLEGS: Alexandria, Crete, Hastings, Lincoln.  
LESSER YELLOWLEGS: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Crete, Geneva,  
Hastings, Lincoln, North Platte.  
PECTORAL SANDPIPER: Antelope Co., Crete, Lincoln.  
BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: Antelope Co., Crete, Lincoln, North Platte.  
LEAST SANDPIPER: Alexandria, Crete, Lincoln.  
DOWITCHER: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Hastings, Lincoln, North  
Platte.

- STILT SANDPIPER: Crete, Lincoln.  
SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER: Crete.  
HUDSONIAN GODWIT: Lincoln.  
AVOCET: Alexandria.  
WILSON'S PHALAROPE: Antelope Co., Crete, Hastings, Lincoln, North Platte.  
RING-BILLED GULL: Crete.  
FRANKLIN'S GULL: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Crete, Geneva, Hastings, Lincoln, North Platte, Superior.  
MOURNING DOVE: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Crete, Geneva, Hastings, Liberty, Lincoln, North Platte, Peru, Plattsmouth, Seward, Superior.  
YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO: Geneva, Lincoln.  
SCREECH OWL: Lincoln.  
GREAT HORNED OWL: Alexandria, Lincoln, Peru.  
BURROWING OWL: Antelope Co., Crete, Hastings, North Platte.  
CHIMNEY SWIFT: Alexandria, Crete, Hastings, Lincoln, Peru, Plattsmouth, Seward, Superior.  
RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD: Geneva, Peru.  
BELTED KINGFISHER: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Lincoln, North Platte.  
YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Crete, Hastings, Liberty, Lincoln, North Platte, Peru, Seward, Superior.  
RED-SHAFTED FLICKER: Geneva, North Platte.  
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER: Alexandria, Lincoln, Plattsmouth.  
RED-HEADED WOODPECKER: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Geneva, Hastings, Lincoln, North Platte, Plattsmouth, Superior.  
HAIRY WOODPECKER: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Hastings, Liberty, Lincoln, Superior.  
DOWNY WOODPECKER: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Liberty, Lincoln, North Platte, Peru, Plattsmouth, Superior.  
EASTERN KINGBIRD: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Crete, Geneva, Hastings, Lincoln, North Platte, Seward, Superior.  
WESTERN KINGBIRD: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Crete, Geneva, Hastings, Lincoln, North Platte, Seward, Superior.  
CRESTED FLYCATCHER: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Hastings, Lincoln, Plattsmouth, Superior.  
PHOEBE: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Hastings, Lincoln, Peru, Plattsmouth, Superior.  
SAY'S PHOEBE: Hastings.  
LEAST FLYCATCHER: Antelope Co., Lincoln.  
HORNED LARK: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Crete, Hastings, Lincoln, North Platte.  
ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW: Antelope Co., Lincoln, Peru.  
TREE SWALLOW: Plattsmouth.  
BANK SWALLOW: Alexandria, North Platte.  
BARN SWALLOW: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Crete, Hastings, Lincoln, North Platte, Peru, Seward, Superior.  
CLIFF SWALLOW: Liberty, North Platte.  
AMERICAN MAGPIE: North Platte.

- PURPLE MARTIN: Alexandria, Geneva, Hastings, Liberty, Lincoln, North Platte, Plattsmouth, Seward, Superior.
- BLUE JAY: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Crete, Geneva, Hastings, Liberty, Lincoln, North Platte, Peru, Plattsmouth, Seward, Superior.
- CROW: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Crete, Geneva, Hastings, Lincoln, North Platte, Peru, Plattsmouth, Superior.
- BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Crete, Geneva, Hastings, Liberty, Lincoln, North Platte, Peru, Plattsmouth, Seward, Superior.
- TUFTED TITMOUSE: Alexandria, Liberty, Lincoln, Peru, Plattsmouth.
- WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH: Lincoln.
- BROWN CREEPER: Liberty, North Platte.
- HOUSE WREN: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Crete, Geneva, Hastings, Lincoln, North Platte, Peru, Plattsmouth, Seward, Superior.
- BEWICK'S WREN: Lincoln.
- MOCKINGBIRD: Hastings.
- CATBIRD: Alexandria, Geneva, Lincoln, North Platte, Seward, Superior.
- BROWN THRASHER: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Crete, Geneva, Hastings, Lincoln, Peru, Plattsmouth, Seward, Superior.
- ROBIN: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Crete, Geneva, Hastings, Liberty, Lincoln, North Platte, Peru, Plattsmouth, Seward, Superior.
- WOOD THRUSH: Geneva, Lincoln, Seward.
- OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Lincoln, North Platte.
- GRAY-CHECKED THRUSH: Alexandria, Geneva, Lincoln.
- BLUEBIRD: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Lincoln, Peru, Plattsmouth, Seward.
- RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET: Antelope Co.
- CEDAR WAXWING: Antelope Co., Lincoln, North Platte.
- NORTHERN SHRIKE: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Lincoln, Seward.
- MIGRANT SHRIKE: Geneva, Hastings, Lincoln, Superior.
- STARLING: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Geneva, Hastings, Liberty, Lincoln, North Platte, Superior.
- WHITE-EYED VIREO: Lincoln.
- BELL'S VIREO: Lincoln, Plattsmouth.
- RED-EYED VIREO: Geneva, Hastings, Peru.
- PHILADELPHIA VIREO: Antelope Co.
- WARBLING VIREO: Alexandria, Hastings, Liberty, Lincoln, North Platte.
- BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER: Antelope Co., Lincoln.
- TENNESSEE WARBLER: Lincoln.
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: Lincoln.
- YELLOW WARBLER: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Lincoln, North Platte, Peru, Plattsmouth, Seward, Superior.
- MYRTLE WARBLER: Crete, Geneva, Lincoln, North Platte, Superior.
- BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER: Lincoln.
- BLACK-POLL WARBLER: Lincoln.
- GRINNELL'S WATER THRUSH: Lincoln.
- YELLOW-THROAT: Lincoln, North Platte.



- CHAT: Peru.  
AMERICAN REDSTART: Alexandria.  
ENGLISH SPARROW: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Crete, Geneva, Hastings, Liberty, Lincoln, North Platte, Peru, Seward, Superior.  
BOBOLINK: Antelope Co.  
EASTERN MEADOWLARK: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Crete, Geneva, Hastings, Liberty, Lincoln, Seward.  
WESTERN MEADOWLARK: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Crete, Lincoln, North Platte, Superior.  
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Geneva, Hastings, Lincoln, North Platte, Superior.  
REDWING: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Crete, Geneva, Hastings, Lincoln, North Platte, Peru, Plattsmouth, Seward, Superior.  
ORCHARD ORIOLE: Alexandria, Lincoln, North Platte, Seward, Superior.  
BALTIMORE ORIOLE: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Geneva, Liberty, Lincoln, North Platte, Peru, Plattsmouth, Seward, Superior.  
BREWER'S BLACKBIRD: Lincoln.  
BRONZED GRACKLE: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Crete, Geneva, Hastings, Liberty, Lincoln, North Platte, Peru, Plattsmouth, Seward, Superior.  
COWBIRD: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Crete, Geneva, Hastings, Lincoln, North Platte, Peru, Plattsmouth, Seward, Superior.  
SCARLET TANAGER: Alexandria.  
CARDINAL: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Crete, Geneva, Hastings, Liberty, Lincoln, North Platte, Peru, Plattsmouth, Seward, Superior.  
ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK: Alexandria, Geneva, Lincoln, Plattsmouth.  
ROCKY-MOUNTAIN GROSBEAK: Hastings, Superior.  
DICKCISSEL: Alexandria, Geneva, Hastings, Liberty, Lincoln, Seward.  
PINE SISKIN: Antelope Co., Hastings, Lincoln, North Platte.  
GOLDFINCH: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Geneva, Hastings, Liberty, Lincoln, North Platte, Plattsmouth.  
RED-EYED TOWHEE: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Crete, Geneva, Lincoln, North Platte, Plattsmouth.  
ARCTIC TOWHEE: Lincoln.  
SAVANNAH SPARROW: Antelope Co., Peru.  
GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Crete, Lincoln, North Platte.  
LARK SPARROW: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Hastings, Lincoln, North Platte, Peru, Superior.  
SLATE-COLORED JUNCO: Geneva, Liberty.  
TREE SPARROW: Geneva, Liberty, Seward, Superior.  
CHIPPING SPARROW: Antelope Co., Hastings, Lincoln, North Platte, Seward.  
CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: Crete, Lincoln, North Platte, Superior.  
FIELD SPARROW: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Lincoln, Peru, Plattsmouth.  
LINCOLN SPARROW: Hastings, Lincoln.

HARRIS SPARROW: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Geneva, Lincoln, Seward, Superior.  
WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: Alexandria, Antelope Co., Geneva, North Platte, Seward.  
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW: Alexandria, Geneva, Hastings, Lincoln, Plattsmouth, Seward.  
SONG SPARROW: Geneva, Liberty, Lincoln.

### MEETINGS AND REPORTS

(In the interests of conservation—conservation of space in the *Bird Review* for material on birds, not people—this and future reports of annual meetings, committee meetings, etc. will be brief abstracts of the detailed reports which are maintained on file with the Custodian and which are available for examination by any N. O. U. member.—Ed.)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, May 8, 1952.—The following items of business were passed on and approved by the Executive Committee at the regular annual session: (1) a committee is to be named by the President to consider the possibility and desirability of incorporating the N. O. U., (2) prior approval by the Executive Committee will be required for all expenditures relating to the publication of the *Nebraska Bird Review* in excess of 75% of the annual income from dues and subscriptions, (3) material for publication in the *Nebraska Bird Review* shall be limited to that referring to the Nebraska region, (4) the library committee (Custodian, Editor, and others appointed by the President) is empowered to act on all matters directly pertaining to the operation and maintenance of the N. O. U. library, (5) the Treasurer's report (showing a balance in the general fund of \$154.88; in the life membership fund, \$103.00; and in the investment pool (United States "G" bonds), \$200.00) was approved, (6) the Editor is to be allowed to solicit advertisements for the last two pages of the *Nebraska Bird Review*, (7) Dr. Henry E. Baumgarten is appointed Assistant Editor of the *Nebraska Bird Review*. Executive Committee members in attendance were: Doris Gates, Mrs. G. A. Spidel, Mrs. F. J. Patton, Mary Lou Hanson, W. E. Eigsti, Adrian Fox, and W. F. Rapp, Jr.—submitted by Mrs. G. A. Spidel, Recording Secretary.

FIFTY-FIRST ANNUAL MEETING.—The fifty-first annual meeting of the N. O. U. was held at Hastings, Nebraska, on May 9 and 10, 1952. The Brooking Bird Club of Hastings was the host organization and all sessions were held in the Hastings Museum. Approximately seventy-five members and guests attended one or more of the sessions. The following papers were presented in the morning and afternoon sessions (May 9):

My Method of Bird Observation (I) by Mrs. A. M. Jones.

My Method of Bird Observation (II) by Henry E. Baumgarten.

Fossil Birds by Norman French.

About Bird Banding by Carl Smith.

Sharp-tailed Grouse Distribution by Sam Krasnick.

Distribution of Birds in Nebraska, a symposium led by Doris Gates.

The Black-capped Chickadee in Nebraska by William Rapp, Jr.

The Status of Quail in Nebraska by Edward Bosak.

At the business meeting, following the procedure prescribed in the Consti-

tution and By-laws of the N. O. U., the Constitution and By-laws were amended to accomplish three objectives: (1) to have the fiscal year of the N. O. U. run from January 1 to December 31 (inclusive), (2) to combine the two secretarial offices (Corresponding and Recording Secretaries) into the single office of Secretary, and (3) to ensure that all officers of the N. O. U. will be residents of Nebraska. The detailed changes in the Constitution were as follows: Art. II, Sec. 1, after "All members in good standing . . ." add "and residing in Nebraska. . ."; Sec. 1, delete "Corresponding"; Sec. 2, delete "Corresponding"; Sec. 3, delete "Corresponding"; Art. IV, Sec. 1, delete "Corresponding and Recording"; Art. V. Sec. 3, delete "Corresponding" and after "membership" add "to keep record of all meetings of the Union, to prepare the proceedings of these meetings in proper form for publication . . ."; Sec. 4, delete the whole section and renumber following Sections accordingly; Sec. 5 (old numbering), change "May" to "January", change "July" to "March", and delete "Corresponding"; Art. VIII, Sec. 1, change "May 1" to "January 1"; Sec. 2, change "May 1" to "January 1"; Sec. 3, change "July 1" to "March 1". The detailed changes in the By-laws are as follows: Sec. 5, delete "Corresponding" and ". . . which shall be expected to be a proper recommendation of the candidate."

On recommendation of the nominating committee and with the unanimous vote of the members present (no other candidates being nominated from the floor) the following members were elected to the offices indicated (the term of office still runs from the time of one annual meeting until the next and is not affected by the above changes in the Constitution):

President: Levi L. Mohler (Lincoln).

Vice-President: L. O. Horksy (Omaha).

Secretary: W. E. Eigsti (Hastings).

Treasurer: Mrs. F. J. Patton (Blue Springs).

Custodian: Mary Lou Hanson (Lincoln).

Editor: William F. Rapp, Jr. (Lincoln).

The Annual Banquet of the N. O. U. was held on the evening of May 9 at the Hotel Clarke, Adrian Fox acting as toastmaster. Dr. W. J. Breckenridge, Director, Minnesota Museum of Natural History, was the speaker of the evening, discussing some problems in ornithology and presenting several films on the nesting of Wood Ducks, duck fostering operations in Canada, and studies of Sandhill Cranes. Oscar Alexis provided the light touch with his bird song imitations.

The Annual Field Day was held in the Hasting area on the morning of May 10. The list of birds seen appears in the General Notes (below). —Submitted by Mrs. G. A. Spidel, Recording Secretary.

## OBITUARY

Mrs. George L. (Isabelle) Day, who was elected a member of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union in 1923, passed away on March 8, 1952, at her home in Superior. Mrs. Day had been a resident of Superior for seventy-one years. She was one of the organizers of the Ladies' Library Association, which later became the Carnegie Library of Superior.

Mrs. Day was known as a lover of nature and her interest and pleasure in birds influenced a great many people.

## GENERAL NOTES

N. O. U. ANNUAL FIELD DAY.—The 1952 N. O. U. Annual Field Day was held on the morning of May 10, 1952, in conjunction with the Fifty-first Annual Meeting. About fifty members and guests participated in the annual count, which was taken in and about Hastings, Nebraska. A total of one hundred twenty-one species was reported by the various groups of observers. The weather was nearly ideal, starting out cool, windy, and cloudy and ending up warm and sunny. The complete list of birds seen was as follows: Green Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, American Bittern, Canada Goose, Mallard, American Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Baldpate, Shoveller, Lesser Scaup Duck, Red-tailed Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Bob-white, Ring-necked Pheasant, Sora, American Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, Wilson's Snipe, Upland Plover, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Willet, Greater Yellow-legs, Lesser Yellow-legs, Pectoral Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Dowitcher, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope, Franklin's Gull, Black Tern, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Great Horned Owl, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Hair Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Western Kingbird, Crested Flycatcher, Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Least Flycatcher, Wood Pewee, Horned Lark, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, House Wren, Mockingbird, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Wood Thrush, Olive-backed Thrush, Gray-checked Thrush, Eastern Bluebird, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Migrant Shrike, Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Bell's Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Black-poll Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Water-thrush, Louisiana Water-thrush, Yellow-throat, American Redstart, English Sparrow, Bobolink, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Red-wing, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Bronzed Grackle, Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Black-headed (Rocky Mountain) Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, Goldfinch, Eastern (Red-eyed) Towhee, Spotted (Arctic) Towhee, Lark Bunting, Savannah Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Harris's Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

WHISTLING SWAN AT LAKE BABCOCK.—During the first two weeks of May (1952) there was a lone Whistling Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*) on Lake Babcock, north of Columbus, Nebraska. The swan was discovered by Mrs. John Armstrong (Columbus), who reported it to me. I went to Lake Babcock on the evening of May 14, 1952, to see the swan, which, for some reason, stayed in the same part of the lake during its prolonged visit.—C. E. Pearson, Genoa, Nebraska.

NESTING OF THE WESTERN TURKEY VULTURE IN NUCKOLLS COUNTY.—Mr. Blaine Lyne who lives a few miles southwest of Superior told me in July, 1944, of finding the nest of the Western Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura teter*) in an old brick house. The house is located in southern Nuckolls County, Nebraska, about one-half to three-quarters of a mile north of the Kansas boundary. The two eggs were laid on the ledge where the rafters came down from the roof. After due time he reported that both eggs had hatched. I had never seen the vultures and I was very interested. On August 1, 1944, I made a trip to the old brick house to see the young birds. They were much larger than I had expected and had a wing spread of perhaps four feet. The wings were black but the breasts were still covered with the lovely, long white down. From the blowing sound they made it was evident that they were aware of our presence. They were in the upper story of the house, but by means of a ladder we were able to approach them as closely as safety permitted. Mr. Lyne described their means of defense. We did not see the adults that day.

On August 19th Mr. Lyne reported that the young birds were then black and appeared about ready to be on their own. Mrs. H. C. Johnston says that she is not familiar with the fact that the vultures nest here; however, I have heard that they are seen on the rocky bluffs of White Rock Creek ten or twelve miles south of Superior.—Mrs. Earle L. Lionberger, Superior, Nebraska.

CLIFF SWALLOWS AT KINGSLEY DAM, KEITH COUNTY.—Ornithologists and others interested in wildlife often have just cause for resenting the destruction which man-made structures commonly inflict upon wildlife habitat. Hence it is a pleasure to find that, upon occasion, native species can utilize artificial structures which fill some particular habitat requirement. An example of this is the use of the concrete "cliffs" of the spillway at Kingsley dam by Cliff Swallows (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota albifrons*). As early as 1942, and probably before that, and continuing through 1950, a large nesting colony of Cliff Swallows has been at home under the overhanging concrete at the spillway. While many visitors stop at the lookout point above the south end of the dam, a drive down the road to the spillway during late spring or early summer is well worthwhile, if for no other reason than to watch the swallows at close range.—Levi L. Mohler, Lincoln, Nebraska.

WINTER NOTES FROM CHADRON, NEBRASKA.—During the winter of 1951-52 more than the usual number of birds wintered in the Chadron area. Large numbers of Robins (*Turdus migratorius*) wintered within the city and the surrounding parks. A small flock of Cedar Waxwings (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) appeared about New Year's Day and were joined on January 11, 1952, by hundreds of Bohemian Waxwings (*Bombycilla garrulus pallidiceps*), the latter staying until about March 12. This year is the first time we have had the Bohemian Waxwings at Chadron since 1946. The Bohemian Waxwings were attracted principally to Box Elder, Hackberries, and Russian Olive trees. In addition to the above species, there were large numbers of Townsend's Solitaires (*Myadestes townsendi*) in this area this winter.—Mr. and Mrs. George Blinco, Chad-

ron, Nebraska.

**WHISTLING SWANS AT MEMPHIS LAKE, NEBRASKA.**—On March 16, 1952, while observing birds in the region around the Memphis Lake State Recreation Grounds, we saw three large, wholly white birds circle and land upon Memphis Lake. Close examination of the birds through the binoculars revealed that they were swans, and, inasmuch as one of the three swans had the characteristic yellow spot at the base of the bill, we identified them as Whistling Swans (*Cygnus columbianus*). Two of the three swans remained in the Memphis Lake area for three weeks (until at least April 6, 1952), during which period they were seen by numerous interested persons including the following members of the N. O. U.: C. G. Pritchard, L. Mohler, W. F. Rapp, Jr., and H. E. Baumgarten. The later observations were made on the flooded cornfields near Memphis Lake. On April 6, 1952, Norman French (Zoology Department, University of Nebraska) took motion pictures of the swans.—George and Grace Spidel, Lincoln, Nebraska.

**BURROWING OWL IN SALINE COUNTY, NEBRASKA.**—On April 27, 1952, the authors visited the Stanley Bartos' farm, south of Wilber, to observe the bird life. During a conversation with Mr. Bartos we learned that there was a pair of Burrowing Owls (*Speotyto cunicularia hypugaea*) breeding on the southern part of his farm. Upon investigating we found the pair of owls and their burrow. The owls apparently were using an abandoned Badger burrow. Mr. Bartos stated that his father had told him that many years ago there was a large prairie dog town located where the Burrowing Owls are now living.

According to Haecker, Moser and Swenk in their *Check-List of the Birds of Nebraska* (1945), the Burrowing Owl's range in Nebraska is as follows: "A common summer resident and breeder in the western two-thirds of the State." Therefore, it would seem that this record constitutes the easternmost Nebraska breeding area for this species.—Janet L. C. Rapp and William F. Rapp, Jr., 2759 F St., Lincoln, Nebraska.

**HUDSONIAN CURLEWS AT LINCOLN, NEBRASKA.**—In recent years a series of very wet spring seasons has increased the number of mudflats and marshy areas in eastern Nebraska with a consequent pronounced increase in both the number and kinds of shorebirds in this area. It is perhaps not surprising, therefore, that on May 23, 1952, (at 6:30 p.m.) while watching the shorebirds on the large mudflat 4.6 miles north of U. S. Highway 6 on the gravel road that is the extension of Lincoln's North 27th Street, I saw four Hudsonian Curlews (*Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus*). The birds were about 200 feet from the road in the company of four Ruddy Turnstones (*Arenaria interpres morinella*) and nine Black-bellied Plover (*Squatarola squatarola*). They were watched with the aid both of binoculars and a 30-power telescope and were identified on the basis of the long down-curved bill, the pronounced head-striping, and the grayish-brown body color. The Hudsonian Curlews appeared to be quite easily disturbed and soon flushed, flying off to the northeast uttering a cry that to this observer was not unlike that of the Lesser Yellow-legs (*Totanus melanoleucus*).

The following evening (7:20 p.m., May 24, 1952) Dorothy J.

Baumgarten and I saw a single Hudsonian Curlew on the edge of the shallow pond 4.8 miles north of U. S. Highway 6 on the same gravel road (the mudflat is on the east side and the pond on the west). There were a large number of other species of sandpipers, plovers, etc. feeding on the shore of the pond, but it was interesting to us to note that in the rather narrow field of our 30-power telescope we had at the same moment the Hudsonian Curlew, a Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*), and a Red-backed Sandpiper (*Erolia minutilla*). According to the "Check-list of the Birds of Nebraska" (Haecker, Moser, and Swenk, Nebr. Bird Rev., xiii, 13 (1945), the Hudsonian Godwit and the Red-backed Sandpiper are rare migrants and the Hudsonian Curlew is a very rare migrant.—Henry E. Baumgarten, Lincoln, Nebraska.

**CINNAMON TEAL AT LINCOLN, NEBRASKA.**—The Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera cyanoptera*) is regarded as an uncommon migrant over most of Nebraska although it is seen with some regularity as far east as Hastings. In the extreme eastern portion of the state the status of the bird is better described as that of a rare migrant. For this reason it is interesting to note that a Cinnamon Teal has been seen on two successive years at Lincoln on the same small pond. In the spring of 1951 C. G. Pritchard (unpublished notes) recorded an observation of a typical male Cinnamon Teal on the shallow pond 4.8 miles north of U. S. Highway 6 on the west side of the gravel road that is the extension of Lincoln's North 27th Street. The bird was observed through a 20-power telescope and because of the striking color was readily identified. On May 24, 1952 (at 10:15 a.m.) I saw a Cinnamon Teal on the same pond, again a typical male. About one hour later the same day Dorothy J. Baumgarten and I noted that the bird was still at the pond. We were quite fortunate in that during both periods of observation the teal came up out of the water onto a small clump of vegetation to preen himself; thus, we were able to study him in some detail through the 30-power scope. Later, during the afternoon of the same day, C. G. Pritchard observed the same Cinnamon Teal at the same pond.

The next morning (May 25, 1952) Don Williams and I were unable to find the Cinnamon Teal at the North 27th Street pond, but we did finally locate the same or another typical male on the small pond to the northeast of Oak Lake (bordered by U. S. Highway 6). This small pond is about eight miles from the pond on which the teal was first observed.—Henry E. Baumgarten, Lincoln, Nebraska.

## BOOK REVIEWS

MIGRATION OF BIRDS.—By Frederick C. Lincoln. Doubleday & Company, Inc. Garden City, New York, 1952: 102 pp. \$1.00.

This fine summary of current and past thought on the intriguing mysteries of bird migration affords the reader the opportunity to learn with a minimum of effort the answers to many of the questions pertaining to the movement of birds, e.g., the origin of migration, when birds migrate, how birds migrate, where birds migrate, routes of migration, etc. A number of well-drawn maps (with sketches of appropriate species of migrants) by Bob Hines illustrate the textual material. *Migration of Birds* is recommended to those readers who want a terse, modern essay on bird migration, free from the confusion of the technical details and problems that still confront more serious students of bird migration. One important objection to the book is that it was actually first published in 1950 (not 1952 as one might infer from the title page) as Circular 16 of the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior, price, \$0.30. This version appears to be a reproduction by the photo-offset process in which all linear dimensions have been reduced by one-fifth.—H. E. Baumgarten.

NORTH WITH THE SPRING.—By Edwin Way Teale, Dodd, Mead and Company, New York, New York, 1951: viii 366 pp. \$5.00.

Many of us have often wished we could follow spring on its northward journey. Until the advent of this book such a trip was only a pleasant dream. To those of us who must wait for spring to arrive Mr. Teale's book will take us on an interesting journey northward with the unfolding spring.

In this unusual book, a travel book, an ecology text, and a natural history book anyone who longs for spring will find enjoyment.—W. F. R.

CAROLINA QUEST.—By Richard M. Saunders. University of South Carolina Press, Columbia 1, South Carolina, 1951: xi 119 pp.

This book is the record of a month's trip to South Carolina by two Canadian bird students. It is a report of the kind of trip that all bird students look forward to being able to take. Mr. Saunders describes vividly the triumph and elation of seeing for the first time a "new" bird in its natural surroundings. To the reader who has never been to South Carolina, this book will stimulate the desire to visit the Palmetto State.—W.F.R.

THE BIRDS OF MICHIGAN.—By Norman A. Wood. University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1951: 559 pp. \$4.00.

This is the latest addition to the state bird works. Unlike many other state publications, however, this work has no colored plates, descriptions of plumage or detailed accounts of habits. Mr. Wood has listed all species and subspecies and given detailed descriptions of the range and occurrence for the birds in Michigan. In the majority of cases the records are based upon collected specimens or upon statements made by competent observers.

*The Birds of Michigan* is an excellent addition to American ornithological literature and deserves a place in the library of every serious bird student.—W.F.R.